

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for controlling vacuum distribution in an exposser for recording printing originals, which comprises the steps of:

holding firmly a recording material of a printing original on a supporting surface by vacuum, the recording material being attracted by suction by a vacuum pump through suction grooves machined into the supporting surface and through suction ducts connected to the suction grooves; and

opening and closing the suction ducts by manipulating valves, the valves being closed by a ~~mechanical action of~~ force from ~~an~~ a mechanical actuator, and the valves being opened by an action of compressed air on a piston in each of the valves.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises opening all of the valves simultaneously.

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Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises integrating an outlet opening for the compressed air into the actuator.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises:

disposing the suction ducts and the valves in an exposure drum; and

disposing the actuator outside the exposure drum.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the exposer records on printing plates.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An apparatus for controlling vacuum distribution in an exposer for recording printing originals, comprising:

a supporting surface for receiving a recording material of a printing original, said supporting surface having suction grooves machined therein and through said suction grooves the recording material is attracted to said supporting surface by suction;

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suction ducts connected to said suction grooves;

valves disposed in a valve block, said valves for opening and closing said suction ducts, each of said valves having a respective piston rod and a respective piston, said valves being opened by compressed air acting on said pistons; and

~~an a mechanical actuator for closing~~ configured to selectively push said piston rods into said valve block for closing selected ones of said valves by a mechanical action of force;
and

~~a piston disposed in said valves and through said piston, said valves are opened by an action of compressed air.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said valves each contain:

a bush having a wall with drilled holes formed therein,~~and~~
~~a piston rod connected to said piston, said piston rod being displaced in said bush.~~

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said piston rod closes and opens said drilled holes.

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Claim 9 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said mechanical actuator closes a respective one of said valves ~~by an action of~~ with a force acting on said piston rod.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said mechanical actuator has an outlet opening formed therein for channeling the compressed air.

Claim 11 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a valve block having a negative-pressure duct and a compressed-air duct formed therein, said valves connected to said negative-pressure duct and said compressed-air duct.

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the exposser records on printing plates.